

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-15 are pending and stand rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 6-10 and 15 are amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the original specification and, for example, in the original specification at page 26, first full paragraph.

Rejection of Claims 1-15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, at item 3, claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Ono et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0026241, hereafter referred to as "Ono").

Reconsideration is respectfully request.

Claim 1

Claim 1 is directed to a router device, and recites:

... a base station in an external network ...

... a lower-layer information acquisition section for acquiring connection information sent from the base station indicating the base station is connectable with the router device via the connection processing section; and

... a route judgment section for judging ... the base station as a transfer destination ... in a case of the connection information acquired from the base station indicating the base station is connectable with the router device, and judging a transfer destination by looking up the routing table in a case of the router not acquiring the connection information.

That is, the routing judgment section judges the base station as the transfer destination when connection information is indicative of a base station (in an external network) being connectable with the router device.

In the Office Action, the Examiner contends that the claimed base station corresponds to Temporary Home Agent (THA) 21b or Virtual Home Agent (VHA) 10.

The base station recited in claim 1, however, is in an external network. As clearly shown in FIG. 19, VHA 10 is in the home network 1 and, more particularly, VHA 10 is not in an external network. Thus, VHA 10 can not correspond to the base station recited in claim 1. The Examiner appears to contend that Ono teaches the VHA 10 (i.e., corresponding to the base station recited in claim 1) as a transfer destination regardless of information stored in a routing table. Although the Examiner's contention may or may not be correct, as previously stated, the VHA 10 of Ono can not be the base station recited in claim 1 because it resides in the home network. Moreover, Ono does not disclose or suggest "a lower-layer information acquisition section for acquiring connection information sent from the base station indicating the base station is connectable with the router device via the connection processing section," (emphasis added) as required by claim 1. This is because, Ono is silent regarding router EN1 or EN2 receiving connection information from THA 21b (THA 21b being the only device cited by the Examiner as corresponding to the claimed base station and also in an external network).

Accordingly, claim 1 is submitted to patentably distinguish over Ono for at least the above-mentioned reasons.

Claims 3 and 6-10

Claims 3 and 6-10, which include similar but not identical features to those of claim 1, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Ono for at least similar reasons to those of claim 1.

Claims 2, 4-5, 11-14

Claims 2, 4-5 and 11-14, which include all of the limitations of claim 1 or 3, are submitted to patentably distinguish over Ono for at least the same reasons as claim 1 or 3.

Independent Claim 15

Claim 15 has been rewritten into independent form and is submitted to be allowable over Ono. Claim 15 is directed to a router device, and recites that:

the connection instructing section checks whether the router is in a connectable status according to information indicative of signal reception intensity from the base station and a connection is established when the router is in the connectable status.

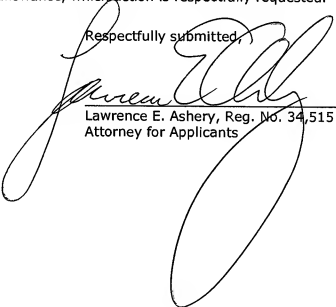
In the Office Action at page 6, the Examiner contends that the above-identified recitation in claim 15 is met by paragraph [0174] of Ono. Ono at paragraph [0174] , however, is silent regarding both signal reception intensity and checking whether a router is in a connectable status.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the claim amendments and remarks, Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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